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EEB/TPP/MTAA/ABT FOR ANN RYAN
USTR FOR JANE DOHERTY
USDA/OSTA FOR CLAY HAMILTON
USDA/OSTA FOR CASEY BEAN
SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: SERBIA: H1N1-RELATED PORK BAN STILL IN PLACE

Ref: State 044254

Per reftel, we raised Serbia's ban on pork imports with Assistant Agriculture Minister Milos Milovanovic, Sinisa Kotur, Director of the Veterinary Directorate and the Agriculture Ministry's Chief Veterinary Officer Zoran Micovic. The Ministry announced a ban on live swine and pork meat from the North and South America until further notice, but has not released the policy in writing. In our discussions we pressed reftel points and strongly encouraged the GOS to lift all H1N1-related restrictions on imports. In addition, we noted that in the context of Serbia's WTO accession process these measures could call into question Serbian readiness to accept and fulfill WTO agriculture commitments. The Ambassador is scheduled to see Agriculture Minister Sasa Dragin on May 12 and plans to raise the decision to ban live swine and pork meat.

MUNTER